

Federal pre-emption for taxes on Indian land

A letter to Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John Barrett, from Deputy Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, reaffirmed the federal government’s position that businesses operating on tribal trust land are exempt from state and local taxes.

“In light of the President’s and Congress’ goal of stimulating economic development on Indian reservations, embodied by the HEARTH Act, we have determined that improvements, leasehold interests and activities conducted on Indian trust land and restricted lands...are exempt from state taxation due to federal pre-emption,” wrote Washburn.

The letter also provides excerpts from the Federal Register notice citing the reasoning for the BIA’s ruling. The notice was published in Vol. 80, No. 122 of the Federal Register on June 25, 2015. The Federal Register contains non-rulemaking documents that are applicable to the general public and named parties.

“We thank Assistant Secretary Washburn for reaffirming what we have been telling the City of Shawnee and the State of Oklahoma; tribes are not tax collectors for outside entities on their own land,” said CPN Tribal Chairman John Barrett. “We hope the state will accept this determination and



Deputy Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn speaks at the CPN HEARTH Act signing in November 2013.

stop wasting taxpayer dollars on a fruitless lawsuit. We’re ready to get back to putting our money toward economic development and services to our customers and tribal citizens, not attorney fees.”

Signed in 2012, the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act created an alternative land leasing process for tribes. The HEARTH Act allows federally recognized tribes to enter leases with non-Indian businesses on trust land without needing to seek a final approval from the Secretary of the Interior. One facet of the new law was to give Indian tribes the same ability as other governments to use taxes to promote new jobs and economic opportunity with business on tribal trust land.

“As you know,” Washburn wrote, “state and municipal governments have long used favorable tax treatment as an incentive to attract economic activity to their communi-

ties. To be competitive, tribes must have the same tools as other governments.”

In November 2013, United States Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary Washburn travelled to Citizen Potawatomi Nation to sign the tribe’s HEARTH Act agreement with the U.S. Government. Since then, the interest in investment and doing business on tribal lands has increased exponentially. In December 2014, the \$2 million BDC Gun Room opened its doors as the area’s only indoor shooting range and firearms dealer under a HEARTH Act lease. With the planned opening of the tribal-owned Iron Horse Industrial Park this year, outside investments on Citizen Potawatomi Nation lands are set to grow. CPN has already installed new sewer and water services throughout the industrial park and new buildings will be added soon.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation


had a \$540 million impact in Potawatomi County for 2014. CPN directly supported 2,100 jobs and paid \$78.6 million in wages and benefits. CPN indirectly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local economies by making purchases in excess of \$212 million on local goods and services.

In addition to wages and purchases, CPN also pays taxes and gives to local charitable organizations. In 2014, CPN made \$28.9 million in Oklahoma tax payments while contributing more than \$2.2 million to local community organizations. Oklahoma schools received \$252,000 from the tribe while CPN awarded \$4.1 million in scholarships.



Scan this QR code for the full story of the 2013 HEARTH Act signing by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell at Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Scholarships available for Potawatomi



CPN and St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, Oklahoma have reached an agreement on a \$5 million pre-paid tuition deal available for Tribal members.

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St. Gregory's University, CPN strike \$5 million agreement

St. Gregory's University announced a historic agreement, establishing a \$5 million prepaid tuition program between St. Gregory's Abbey, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the university. The Nation, under the leadership of Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, will provide scholarships to Tribal members over the next six years, with 60 students receiving up to four years of full scholarships to attend St. Gregory's.

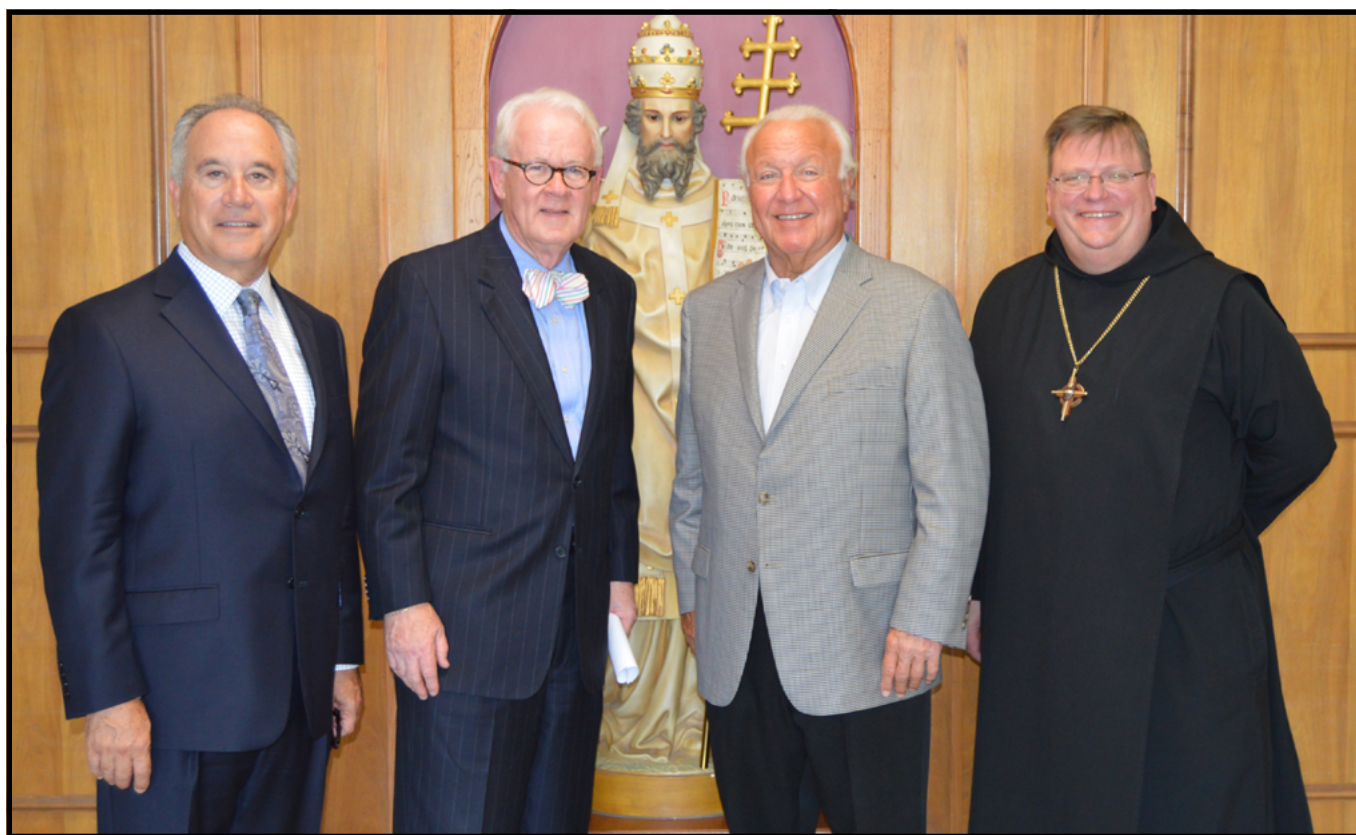
Both traditionally-aged students in an undergraduate program or adults pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Master's in an accelerated degree program are eligible to receive scholarships to cover their tuition and attendance costs. The scholarships are immediately available and can be used as soon as the fall 2015 semester.

"The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is proud to help more Tribal members earn degrees to ensure their own financial security while simultaneously strengthening St. Gregory's economic sustainability," Barrett said. "We're continuing the partnership formed with the monastic community 140 years ago when our ancestors helped two French monks found the school at the original site at Sacred Heart Mission."

St. Gregory's will use the \$5 million scholarship prepayment to meet operational needs, refinance its assets, expand its fundraising activities and conduct a long-term strategic planning process.

"Chairman Barrett has reaffirmed the historic partnership between the Potawatomi people and the Benedictine Monks," said Greg Main, President of St. Gregory's University. "This three party agreement between St. Gregory's University, St. Gregory's Abbey and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation empowers the university to chart an exciting vibrant future."

Enrollment in the traditional program on the Shawnee campus has grown nearly 40 percent, Main said. St. Gregory's launched a new Catholic Nursing Program last year in conjunction with the state's



(From left to right) Former Oklahoma Governor David Walters, St. Gregory's University President Greg Main, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, Chancellor of St. Gregory's University and Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey.

four Catholic Healthcare Systems. Campus facilities and technology have been significantly upgraded. The first online degree programs, including the Masters of Business Administration, will be offered in 2016.

"St. Gregory's has demonstrated remarkable initiative, progress and development during the past four years, and it is well positioned for long term planning and comprehensive refinancing," said Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, Chancellor of St. Gregory's University and Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey. "It is gratifying and fitting that the Citizen Potawatomi, who made possible our original foundation, have ensured the future of Catholic liberal arts education in the state of Oklahoma. They have also enabled us to renew our original mission to serve the American Indian Peoples of this region."

St. Gregory's offers a residential campus experience for traditional age students in Shawnee and accelerated adult degree programs for adults in Shawnee and Tulsa. Nurs-

ing degree completion classes are also offered in Oklahoma City. The University confers associate, bachelor's and master's degrees with 37 majors, eight pre-professional programs and five graduate degree programs.

"I salute Chairman Barrett for securing the future of one of Shawnee's oldest institutions and major employers as well as Oklahoma's only Catholic University," said former Governor David Walters, who worked with Barrett to outline the financing plan. "I appreciate Rocky Barrett's thoughtful insight and admire the current and historical support provided by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to St. Gregory's University."

St. Gregory's will launch a strategic planning process in September, expected to involve more than 200 people on various committees. Co-chaired by Archbishop Paul Coakley of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Bishop Edward Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa, the six month effort will include civic and Catholic leaders, educators, philanthro-

pists and stakeholders from around the state.

"This prepaid tuition grant from CPN gives us the time needed to implement a bold plan to secure the university's vitality and future growth," Main said. "Many new and innovative education programs are already being considered."

Interested CPN members can contact Dr. Ron Faulk, Academic Dean, at 405-878-5407 (office) or rh-faulk@stgregorys.edu.



To learn more about CPN-SGU relations, visit [here](http://www.Potawatomi.org) or go to www.Potawatomi.org and search 'Sacred Heart'

Hownikan

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The *Hownikan* is published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions for non-members are available for \$10/yr. in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries. The *Hownikan* is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the *Hownikan*. Editorials/letters are subject to editing and must contain traceable address.

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Soto Sushi Bar to open at Grand Casino Hotel and Resort

One of central Oklahoma's leading travel destinations, the Grand Casino Hotel Resort has "beefed" up their gastro-offerings with the addition Flame Brazilian Steakhouse. Adding to the Grand's exceptional edible enterprises, is the family friendly Soto Sushi Bar. The new eatery will serve hand crafted sushi and Asian fusion delicacies and is led by Head Sushi Chef, Richard Soto, who coincidentally shares the same surname as the business.

"I've been in the sushi industry for a little more than four years now," said Chef Soto. "One thing I've taken away from my time as chef is that it really comes down to the experience people have when they come into a restaurant. You can go anywhere and get a meal, but when you come into a restaurant like this I want to make sure that you want to come back here."

The style that Chef Soto provides for sushi is a mix of everything that he has learned over his career, with the restaurant offering a variety of common selections and several of Soto's own creations. Soto Sushi Restaurant will have traditional sushi dishes such as nigiri, hand rolls and uramaki inside-out rolls. Guests looking to avoid seaweed will have options of soy paper rolls, while for vegetarians and vegans, Chef Soto promises to accommo-



Soto creates speciality items available only at Soto Sushi Restaurant.



Richard Soto

date those guests' specific dietary needs.

Chef Soto also plans on introducing custom menu items such as the Red River Roll, which contains fried crawfish, cream cheese and spicy mayo. It will be rolled inside out and will be covered in red tobiko, a traditional, nutritious fish enhancement featured on sushi dishes.

"This can be something to look forward to when you and your family try out the new restaurant," said Chef Soto. "We're a sushi restaurant, but we want to be *your* sushi restaurant."

For more information about Soto Sushi Restaurant or other dining options at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort please visit <http://grandresortok.com/>.

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CITIZENPOTAWATOMINATION




@C_P_N CPN HOWNIKAN

Let the Remodeling Begin

By: Jessica Tucker,
CPCDC
Loan Document Specialist

Haley's Carpet has been a part of Oklahoma City for over 45 years. In 2009 owner John Haley decided to sell, providing an opportunity for Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal member Jamie Hubble to take over a very well-known local business.

Hubble and partner Mike Yoder purchased the business with assistance from the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation's commercial loan program.

Prior to his passing in 2014, Yoder brought several years of experience to the business and had worked as a contractor for Haley before acquiring the business. Hubble says that everything she learned about the flooring and carpet business came from Yoder. Though she accedes that while other manufacturers who have been in business longer, Hubble is confident that what she learned from Yoder combined with her determination to do the best for her customers will get a thorough job done.



Haley's Carpet, another CPCDC financed Oklahoma business.

"If I don't know the answer to a question, I will find it. I want to make sure my clients are satisfied and everyone goes the extra mile for them," stated Hubble.

Haley's Carpet provides a variety of different options for their clients ranging from flooring to full remodeling on bathrooms or kitchens. Their warehouse and store are located in the same place at 3920 NW Street in Oklahoma City. They are open six days a week and you can go online or call to schedule measurements at www.haleyscarpetokc.com.

Though the firm has three full time employees, five contract crews help with the various jobs and orders they receive. Since receiving funding from the CPCDC for the purchase in 2009, Hubble says that sales have increased and that business is blossoming. Recently Hubble began looking for additional opportunities for the business and is flipping houses as a part of her work at Haley's.

"This business opened other opportunities for us. We are able to flip houses and get remodels done quicker with the items we have at

our disposal," Hubble said.

Though she enjoys her business and the opportunities it has brought, Hubble cherishes spending time with her three children. With Haley's success, Hubble stated that the family now has the ability to go on vacations they never would have been able to before.

"I would not be where I am today without the help of CPCDC. They provided the loan for us to buy Haley's Carpet. More than that, they gave us the education and support we needed to delve into this business opportunity," said Hubble.

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation is a lender to Native American-owned businesses across Oklahoma and to Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal members across the United States. If you are seeking a loan to help build your business like Jamie Hubble's or would like to inquire about a business loan please call 405-878-4697 or visit at www.cpcdc.org.

Skaggs keeps court and participants on schedule for CPN Indian Child Welfare

Keeping a sunny and playful disposition comes in handy in most lines of work, but the talent for gal-lows humor is even more important when you're on the front lines of social services like the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department. A walking embodiment of that kind of outlook is Nickie Skaggs.

Originally hailing from Meeker, Okla., Skaggs still lives in her hometown with her daughter. The graduate of Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla. served as a dental assistant for an oral surgeon practice for six years.

"I just like helping people," said Skaggs on her dental career. "I also liked, for lack of a better term, the details that went into assisting oral surgery. One time, I was so looking so closely at a patient's mouth and then I realized the surgeon had stopped working. I looked up and he told me he couldn't see because I was in his way."

Skaggs put that same attention to detail into a new direction when she accepted a position with the then-named FireLake Grand Casino's audit department in 2002.

"I like numbers and I thought it'd be different," admitted Skaggs. "It was just called the 'Baby Grand' when I started. They were finishing what is now the Grand Casino."

After a few years of crunching the numbers on the gaming side of the Tribe's business, Skaggs took a position in the CPN Accounting Department. Her competence in that role drew the attention of Indian Child Welfare Department Director Janet Draper, and when a position opened with that department became available, Draper encouraged Skaggs to apply.

"During the years that I have worked here at CPN, Nickie was involved with managing our funds," said Draper. "She was always friendly, professional and completed our accounting needs."

Today, Skaggs serves the ICW Department in two capacities; as executive assistant to ICW Director Draper and as the Coordinator for the Healing and Wellness Drug Court. She oversees the court's records and follows up with participants to ensure they're attending meetings and adhering to the terms of their treatment.

"It just depends on the situation, but I do everything from filing the paperwork to speaking with those people who are in the court," she said. "We try to do everything we can to help them get back on their feet or get their kids back, but the one thing that has to happen before all of that is they must want to help themselves."



Nickie Skaggs

Like most of the workload seen by the staff of Indian Child Welfare Department's various programs, Skaggs speaks of the frustration in seeing the cycle of addiction reverberate through families. Skaggs tells of how some individuals are the third or fourth generation of the same family being involved with ICW.

Yet there are always signs of hope, with the Meeker-native describing those specific cases where individuals who have hit rock bottom being able to keep themselves on the long road to recovery. She, like many of the staff serving under Draper, serves as a confidant to

people who just need someone to provide a bit of encouragement or a sympathetic ear.

It's those cases that keep people like Skaggs in the job that demands so much from someone on an emotional level.

"It helps that I work with a great group of people and for an even greater boss in Janet (Draper). Yes, I get down sometimes, but my natural personality is upbeat. I think it helps and I don't look down on people. A lot of the people we serve have had a hard life, but they're human beings and they deserve to be treated like it."

It's a perspective shared by Draper.

"Nickie is a very positive person who is always willing to go above and beyond. She is extremely funny and keeps everyone laughing. Speaking as a director, this department benefits from her being a part of our team.

That team continues to show its importance to the wider community each day, one case and family at a time.

If you or someone you know would like more information on the services and programs of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department, please visit www.potawatomi.org/services/community or call 405-878-4831.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence.

Domestic Violence may include emotional abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, economic abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, other behaviors that can be used to maintain fear, intimidation and control.

Domestic Violence often begins with name-calling, violence in the person's presence such as damaging property or pets, punching fist through wall.

It can escalate to pushing, shoving, slapping, pinching, punching, kicking, biting, or sexual assault.

It can become life threatening, often called choking (strangulation), breaking bones, or the use of weapons causing serious injuries including death.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT IS IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Approach that person at a place and time that is confidential.

Be specific about your concerns; Let them know you are concerned for their safety and the safety of their children.

Communicate to the person that the abuse is not his or her fault and no one deserves to be abused.

Encourage them to locate a local domestic violence program and build a support system. 800.799.SAFE.

Suggest putting together a safety plan for the victim and the children.

Be patient and understanding, it can take time for someone to be ready to talk. Leaving an abusive relationship can be a very dangerous time, especially if their partner is controlling and violent.

**CPN Family Violence Program • House of Hope • 1310 Gordon Cooper Dr.
Office Hours: Monday - Friday • 8AM - 5PM • www.cpnhouseofhope.org • 405.878.HOPE (4673)**

New faces, Dr. James Prise and Debbie Skillings greet CPN West Clinic patients

CPN Health Services' continued expansion of healthcare offerings has also increased the need for more providers at the east and west clinics. Two new faces at the CPN West Clinic are Licensed Practical Nurse Debbie Skillings and Dr. James Prise, who joined the long list of exceptional health providers serving Tribal members, employees and non-Native spouses.

Skillings, who has lived in the area since the age of ten, explained that her new position brings her closer to her home in Tecumseh and is just another professional step in her lifelong work of giving back to those in need.

"I got into nursing because I wanted to help people," said Skillings. "I worked in internal medicine for 20 years and loved working in geriatrics especially. The majority of patients are so sweet and you get excited visiting with them, and I really enjoy that."

Skillings and Dr. Prise both come to CPN Health Services from St. Anthony Physicians in Choctaw.

Dr. Prise was born in Scotland, near Aberdeen, before a move to Canada as a child when his father pursued better work opportunities. He grew up and attended medical school in his adopted home, and worked as a community doctor in the cottage country of Manitoba.

"I wore a lot of hats, but after a while



Dr. James Prise and Debbie Skillings RN.

I realized those 80-hour work weeks were getting long, while the winters were getting even longer," he explained.

In search of new horizons, Dr. Prise again crossed international borders, this time headed straight south after a recommendation from a former Canadian colleague who had relocated to a practice in Winfield, Kansas. Passing through the Sunflower State, Dr. Prise settled in Oklahoma in 1995 and partnered in a private practice before serving 18 years with St. Anthony Hospital in central Oklahoma.

Dr. Prise's experience in the Canadian and American medical fields also offered him a unique perspective on

the latter's national debate on the efficacy of modern healthcare systems.

"Both have their pros and cons," said Dr. Prise. "Most people up north are satisfied with their healthcare because there's a safety net; everybody has it. Coming to CPN, it's almost like anybody who has their CDIB card; they have that same safety net," speaking of the holistic approach to health care offered by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Service. CPN Health Service ensures all eligible patients as outlined by the Indian Health Service have access to excellent, comprehensive healthcare services as well as those within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation family,

such as employees, their families and Tribal member spouses.

Nearing two decades with St. Anthony though, Dr. Prise learned about the recently opened CPN West Clinic from a former colleague and current employee of CPN Health Services, Dr. George Adam Vascellaro.

"When someone like that, in terms of how we practice similarly, makes the recommendation like Dr. Vascellaro did, I thought to myself 'There's got to be something here.'"

As he explained, within a few days he and Skillings - who had worked with him at St. Anthony - were the CPN West Clinic's newest healthcare providers. It's a change of pace for the pair, but as Dr. Prise points out, calling the steady flow of patients at the Tribal health clinics 'busy' is a relative term.

"Compared to my private practice in Canada, where there were so many more patients than providers, we were basically working triage. If a person came in, you dealt with that problem instead of trying to go down a laundry list of causes. Here, the emphasis seems to be on quality."

If you would like to learn more about CPN Health Services, please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/services/health> or call (405) 878-4693.

Physical therapy expands department with new hire Zachary Huff

Coming up on the physical therapy department's second anniversary, the program has quickly expanded to provide another physical therapist to treat the CPN Health Services' always growing roster of patients. The clinic recently relocated inside the FireLake Wellness Center to provide more space for their expanded staff and patients. Zachary Huff, a Choctaw Nation tribal member from Eufaula, Oklahoma is the newest face in the physical therapy room.

A graduate of Eufaula High School, Huff completed a degree in physical therapy from the University of Oklahoma after finishing his undergraduate studies in just three years. Following a transfer to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Huff completed his Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Upon graduation from OUHSC, Huff joined the Cherokee Nation based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma as a staff physical therapist.

"In Tahlequah I had the chance to experience out-patient and in-patient settings," said Huff. "From there I moved positions to a supervisory role at the Cherokee Nation's Vinita Health Clinic."

Huff's work with the Cherokee Nation was an experience that led to his working relationship with current CPN Physical Therapy Supervisor James Bailey. Bailey, who was in the preliminary stages of developing CPN's own program, reached out to Huff for insight on starting a physical therapy program from scratch.

"Since I helped build the program in Vinita he was looking to get some information on how we got it started," said Huff. "I helped them get set up and taught them how it transitioned from a private practice to a tribal facility."

Following CPN Health Services' launch of its own PT program, Bailey and Huff kept in touch. When Huff wanted a move closer to Oklahoma City, he reached out to Bailey to see if the CPN Clinic had any positions open.

"To my surprise, they did and that's how I got here," said Huff.

A Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy, Huff will be tasked with providing patient education and treatment to the many tribal members the program serves.

Instead of lecturing patients, Huff



Zachary Huff

provides real world examples of exercises and activities to help break those sedentary habits, even if it's as simple as getting up and doing something other than sitting.

"The more you stand the better off you're going to be," said Huff. "If

most of your activities are in a bent position, change the position you are sitting as often as you can. The more variation and variety you move your body, the better off you are."

Huff is married with a one year old daughter and spends most of his free time with family, but does admit to taking work home.

"I do a lot of research and online study for physical therapy," said Huff. "The Potawatomi tribe has been very welcoming and accommodating. I am very excited to work in this facility and it has been a great transition since I have started."

The CPN Physical Therapy Clinic is open to any and all Tribal members that are currently being seen by CPN Health Services. Patients do not have to be Potawatomi and can be from any federally recognized tribe. If you would like to learn more about the CPN Physical Therapy Clinic or other CPN Health Services, please visit www.potawatomi.org/services/health or call 405-878-4693.

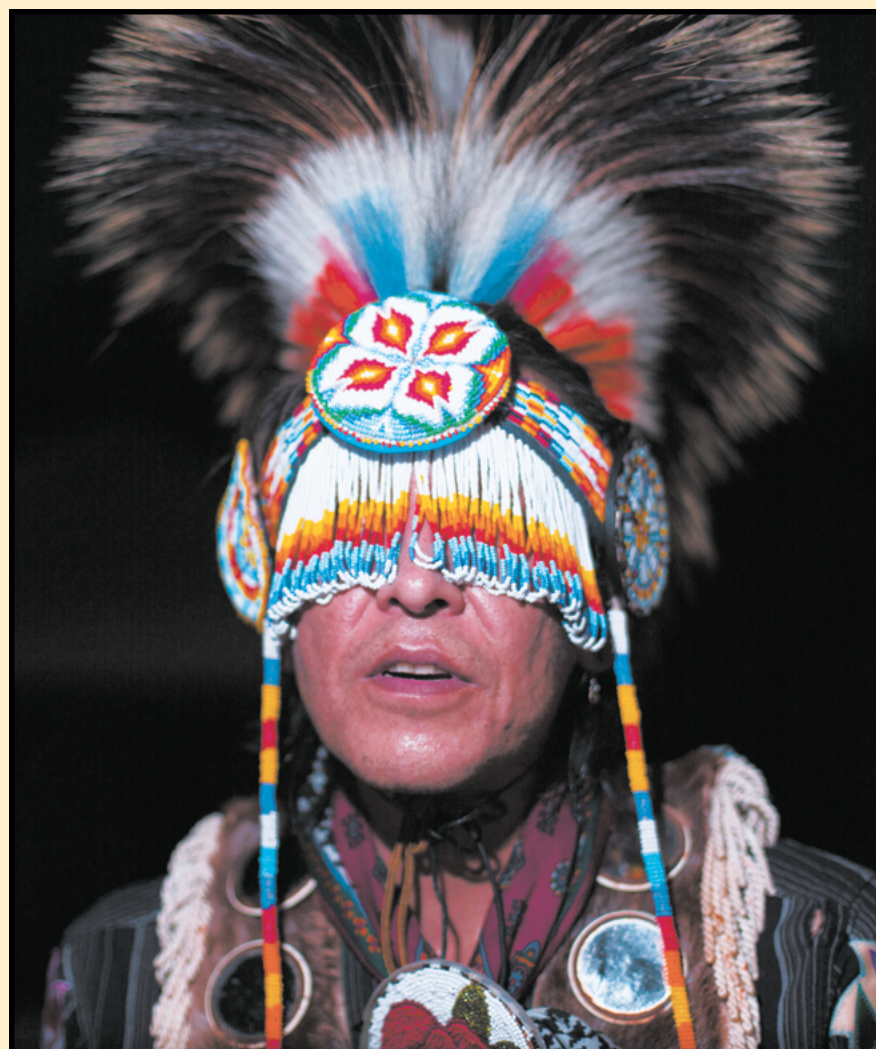
GATHERING OF NATIONS 2015



Intertribal dancing Friday night at the Forrest County Potawatomi powwow grounds.



Mens fancy dance participant during Friday night's powwow.



Mens Grass Dancer during the Friday night powwow.



Photographer, Sharon Hoogstraten with her photo of Margaret and Tesia Zientek.



Steve Pigeon, gun lake tribal member, is a traditional black ash basket maker.



Loretta Burgess drawing a traditional Native American scene on paper during arts and crafts.

MILES TRAVELLED TO 2015 GATHERING IN CARTER, WISCONSIN

FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN FACTS

- POPULATION - 9,126
- 13,304 ACRES OF FOREST LAND
- ENCOMPASSES LARGE PORTIONS OF THE NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
- HOME TO THE FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI AND SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY
- MORE THAN ONE IN TEN RESIDENTS ARE NATIVE AMERICAN

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION, KANSAS - 759 MILES

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION, OKLAHOMA - 1,032 MILES

WASAUKSING FIRST NATION, PARRY ISLAND, ONTARIO - 730 MILES (1,175 KILOMETERS)

WALPOLE ISLAND FIRST NATION, WALPOLE ISLAND, ONTARIO - 430 MILES (692 KILOMETERS)

HANNAHVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY, MICHIGAN - 78 MILES

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI, MICHIGAN - 411 MILES

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI, MICHIGAN - 464 MILES

MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH BAND OF POTTAWATOMI (GUN LAKE), MICHIGAN - 469 MILES



Tribal member and CPN Employment and Training worker, Stephanie Cain-Hawk, poses with her husband Jason Hawk during a break in dancing at Friday night's powwow.



Brevin Boyd of the Forest County Potawatomi was the head male junior dancer during Friday night's powwow.



Willie Pekah, a Comanche Nation tribal member, teaches a class on traditional bow and arrow making.



Mark Naniot of Wild Instincts in Rhinelander, Wisconsin answers questions about birds of prey.

FireLake Wellness Center attendee finds passion in running

Tammy Loretta admits that she had struggled with leading a healthy lifestyle for quite some time. On top of having to take daily medications, she had been unsuccessful in quitting her smoking habit.

In 2014, Loretta decided to participate in the CPN holiday weigh-in contest and finally found the motivation needed to initiate a lifestyle change and began exercising daily at the Tribe’s FireLake Wellness Center.

At weigh-out, Loretta had lost 15 pounds and decided to challenge herself even more by conquering her weakness of running. She sought the help of CPN Wellness Center Fitness Trainer Sarah Lawrance, who created a training plan.

Loretta ran her first half-marathon in April of 2015 in two hours and 30 minutes. What Loretta once considered a weakness is now not just a lifestyle for her, but a passion.

“It was the most amazing experience ever,” said Loretta. “I crossed the finish line with tears of joy streaming down my cheeks and had found my new passion.”

Loretta is now training to run a full marathon and hopes to qualify for



Tammy Loretta

the Boston Marathon in 2017. To date, Loretta has lost a total of 38 pounds, no longer smokes and has been able to discontinue daily medications.

She credits her success to her faith in God, Citizen Potawatomi Nation and FireLake Wellness Center’s Lawrance for creating a

training plan.

“First and foremost I want to thank God for giving me the strength to make the necessary changes in my life. I also want to thank the wellness center staff for being a part of my life changing experience,” said Loretta. “They are absolutely amazing.”

If you would like to learn more about the healthy living and fitness options available at the CPN Wellness Center, please call 405-395-9304.

To learn more about CPN Health Services, please visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/services/health/clinics>

Healthy Heart Program launches new website

The spring 2015 storm season dampened expectations for the CPN Healthy Heart Program, with flooding causing the newly planted CPN Community Garden to be washed away in one of the many May downpours. Though that endeavor was set back for another, hopefully drier year, the staff of the Healthy Heart Program who helped manage the garden did have one big project come to fruition.

A new program website, www.cpnhealthyheart.com, launched with grant funding assistance this summer.

Healthy Heart nutritionist, Torie Fuller MS RD/LD, utilized grant funds from the Native Telehealth Outreach and Technical Assistance Program to help pay for the website’s costs and management. NTOTAP provides Native American health programs to develop websites, social media strategies and other online programs that focus on local health concerns.

Fuller and the CPN Healthy Heart staff were approached by NTOTAP



Visit www.cpnhealthyheart.com to learn more.

advocates with the opportunity for their online outreach grant. Fuller then took a training course on how to build a website and Fuller created www.cpnhealthyheart.com herself.

“I applied for the grant as an outreach opportunity to the community and for our participants,” said Fuller. “We needed another way to promote everything that we do to the commu-

nity. The website will also be used as a recruiting tool for individuals thinking about joining the Healthy Heart Program,” continued Fuller.

The website offers Healthy Heart patients a look into the program, allowing them to sign up for a grocery store tour or cooking demonstration. It also has a calendar of events and

links to other websites with useful heart healthy information.

“We’re hoping this website offers participants an opportunity to have unlimited access to questions or concerns they have regarding their health,” said Fuller. “We want the website to be able to give patients all they need to know to live a heart healthy life.”

For more information please visit the Healthy Heart website at www.cpnhealthyheart.com. To learn more about the CPN Healthy Heart Program, call at 405-395-9303.



Scan this QR code to visit the new CPN Healthy Heart Website.

FireLodge Tribal Youth update: September 2015

By Darin Greene, Coordinator FireLodge Tribal Youth Program

With a successful summer coming to an end, it was back-to-school time for the Tribal youth, who hit the ground running and were excited about the new year. Keeping with the times, the youth also celebrated National School Success Month.

Each student and their parent(s) did a "My Success Plan," which includes giving the staff access to the students' grades through the online gradebook. Each student sets a long term goal, with adult input and guidance as needed. The family and staff will discuss how the "My Success Plan" will be monitored and evaluated over the next six months, while the parents took a short survey on their view of the P.L.A.C.E.'s work in the community and with their youth.

Ben McAlister, academic support specialist, and Wilson Littlehead, prevention specialist, started the college prep class for our youth who will be advancing on after high school to higher education. This class will help the youth be better prepared for college.

The tribal youth kicked off a new

reading program aimed at encouraging the reading of more books. The participants will set monthly goals on how many books they will read and will go year-round. Each reading winner will get a free personal one topping pizza from FireLake Pizza for meeting their goal.

We also got the S.T.E.M. Robotic program up and going, with the group's main objective being to establish a goal and have a date for the first SeaPerch competition. The plan also is to get involved in the Lego Robotic Competition.

Justin Neely and staff began the Potawatomi language class. This class teaches the Tribal youth how to speak the language. It is an eight week class and there will be a Potawatomi language contest and the winner will get a grand prize.

It's not always a focus on physical health is also on the agenda, as our participants will be taking an educational class to learn about cholesterol, its levels, when they're bad for health and how to eat healthier in order to avoid those higher levels.

The 100 mile challenge kicked off too, with each student being encouraged to walk 100 miles to stay fit.



Hayley Richardson doing some serious exhaling during an arts and craft activity.

Each student who successfully completes the challenge will get a t-shirt and the overall winner, in terms of who achieves the 100 miles first, will get a grand prize.

In other activity related news, the tribal youth began the inaugural P.L.A.C.E. Intramural Program with a four-on-four indoor soccer league, indoor flag football league and volleyball league.

We will also be holding a disc golf tournament and ping pong tournament

during the month, while in honor of the football season kicking off, our youth are taking part in the newest activity, "Big Ben's NFL Pick'em," which each youth will pick the current week's NFL winners.

We're always looking for more participants if we can accommodate them. If you would like to learn more about the FireLodge Tribal Youth program, feel free to contact me at dgreene@potawatomi.org.

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CPN Veterans report: September 2015

By Daryl Talbot, Commander, CPN Veterans Organization

Bozho,

At our last CPN Veterans Organization meeting we made some historic advancements in updating our bylaws. First, change in the bylaws is one that has been discussed for several years and affects many CPN members and their spouses. The change was proposed and passed unanimously to allow veteran spouses of CPN members to join the CPN Veterans Organization. Many spouses of CPN members who were veterans have been asking to be a part of the CPN Veterans Organization and now their requests can be granted. I do believe that these new veteran members will prove to be an asset to the organization as they have been to the Tribe. *Migwetch.*

The second item that was addressed in the meeting was the dues required by those members who lived outside the immediate active membership area. These members

felt that certain adjustments should be considered for the dues paid by those living outside the contingent counties of Pottawatomie County. It was proposed and passed unanimously that their dues be reduced to \$10 per year starting in June 2016. That is the due date for the dues each year. I believe these changes will make for a better veterans organization and show a growth for the future. *Migwetch.*

On 26 September 2015, we will hold our Vietnam Era Veterans Memorial Banquet. Many people have worked diligently to make this event happen, but it was a labor of love and honor to be a part of something that was long overdue. *Migwetch.*

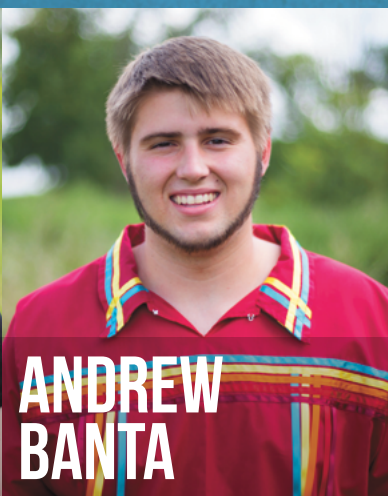
Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m., or as soon as you can get there, in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.



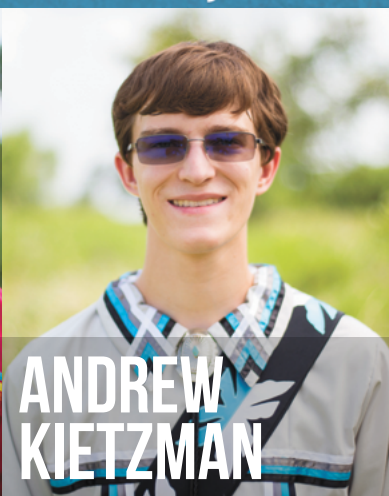
THE POTAWATOMI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



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COLLINS



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STEWARD



IVORY
HANSON



NATALIA
ANGLIN



PAULINA
DAVISON



ROSS
KORZENIEWSKI



TYLER
KLINE

There's nothing like a little severe Oklahoma weather to bring people together. The wet May 2015 weather also had an impact on the out-of-staters like Lawrence, Kansas' Alexis Riner, who arrived at the Sharp House in June to learn that the living quarters would be crammed more than usual.

"I think it was actually a better time for us since the basement got flooded, which forced the boys to sleep upstairs," wrote Riner in her PLP final reflection. "I felt like everyone bonded on a higher level because of that."

Like PLPs before her, Riner cited her shadowing experiences at the Child Development Center and CPN Tribal Police Department as two of her most memorable experiences, the latter of which allowed to her to participate in a ride-along. At the CDC, Riner stepped in on a day when the staff needed help and worked with the youth in the after-school program.

Working with partner Heath Steward on a water collection project, the two PLP members met with CPN Public Works Director Richard Kunze and CPN Construction Director Bill Smith about the feasibility of a system that trapped and redistributed runoff rainwater at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort to Tribal enterprises and users.

It wasn't all business though, as Riner credited the Moon Ceremony with being her favorite cultural activity and learning more about the proper etiquette in the prayer circle.

"Being in the Potawatomi Leadership Program has made my life just a bit fuller," she wrote. "I'll be able to take my knowledge of the traditions home and share it with my cousins and maybe convince a few of them to considering joining the PLP when they're eligible!"

Okemah, Oklahoma's Andrew Banta admitted he was somewhat reticent to participate in the leadership program that lasted six weeks, a veritable lifetime for anyone to give up their summer vacation.

"I had very mixed emotions leading up to the PLP. Once I entered the Sharp House and met the Housemother, Margaret Zientek, and the other students, I knew this is exactly what I was supposed to do with my summer."

Banta cited the annual CPN Family Reunion Festival as his greatest highlight of the program, though he has attended Festivals with his family in the past. He noted the PLP Hand Games Team's ultimately unsuccessful quest for the 2015 competition's win as a thoroughly enjoyable experience, propelled by their adopted "Going to Montana!" slogan picked up in their first day of orientation.

"We participated in New Hire Orientation and watched a motivational video of a fish market that embraced having fun at work and received national recognition due to their up spirit service. They would throw fish through the air and yell the phrase, 'Going to Montana!' We decided we wanted to emulate their spirit and hard work, so we adopted their phrase."

Looking back on his six weeks in service for his Tribe, Banta closed with his final thoughts on what being Potawatomi meant to him as a PLP alumni.

"This program has been very influential to understanding what it means to be Potawatomi to me. We are leaders, visionaries, and stewards. We lead by example; not just for our own people, but for all people. We are not selfish. We take care of all people and the environment... I am proud to call myself a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

An astute observation by South-lake, Texas' Andrew Kietzman and project partner Tyler Kline regarding a high mosquito population at CPN, led to their final project proposal.

"We decided that instead of using pesticides to kill the mosquitoes, actions should be taken to reduce the amount of algae in the ponds. Not only would this act as a more ecologically friendly and healthier approach, but it would address the problem at its source and help keep the ponds looking clean and pleasant as a result."

The focus on the minutiae was also a source of concern for Kietzman when he considered which Tribal departments to shadow.

"I saw that the Tribe has departments where my interests in technology and art are relevant, such as the IT department and the Department of Public Information. I also took into account that what I am currently studying does not have to reflect the different enterprises and branches of the Tribe, and that I can still be involved."

Kietzman's analytical approach was also reflected in how he viewed himself as a Potawatomi, both before and after the PLP program took place.

"On one hand, I was excited to learn about a part of my ancestors' culture and to be able to share in those traditions; on the other hand, the culture and its teachings felt very foreign, and I had a difficult time identifying with the culture and accepting it as a history that I am connected to. During my time here, however, I have begun to change how I view the Potawatomi culture and how I relate to it. I have come to see that, even though I have not been raised with the Potawatomi culture, I can still identify to it through my ancestry."

Boise, Idaho's Blake Collins, a former high school wrestler who prides himself on his work ethic, came to the PLP by way of a year of college and a stint in an Alaskan gold mine.

The program's almost exhaustive schedule matched Collins' own drive to push himself, and he cites that pace for his gaining an insight on the breadth of the Tribe's programs and enterprises.

"I was able to hear from people with just about every career: bankers, police officers, teachers, legislators, lawyers, store directors, social workers and much more. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation does so much for its Tribal members and even other (Indian Nations) tribal members," wrote Collins. "My mom and grandmother have always talked to me about what great things our Tribe is doing for its members and the city of Shawnee, but I never really understood the extent of it until now. This Tribe is so much more than a big casino and grocery store."

An example of such a non-gaming program for Collins was the CPN Department of Environmental Protection.

Collins and project partner Andrew Banta proposed a Tribal recycling program that could help turn a profit while maintaining the quality of life in the CPN jurisdiction through the collection of used electronic items.

"We are not expecting to make huge financial gains off of this endeavor," wrote Collins. "However, if the Tribe promotes going green enough, we could get a lot of recycled phones and computers and make a small profit off of it. Our Tribe is already doing so much to help the environment of the world we live in, but we can always do more."

Though hailing just forty miles away from the CPN headquarters, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma's Heath Steward admitted he had little knowledge of CPN's history and structure.

"I didn't know that the Tribe owned multiple business ventures," he wrote. "I didn't know that the Tribe had a similar governmental structure as the federal government. I didn't know a single bit of the language or the culture."

Heading into his first year of college, Steward was set on majoring in chemistry and pursuing a career in research, yet his experience in learning of CPN's complexity has changed his assurance. That didn't apply to the professional and academic realm only though, as Steward touched on the cultural diversity that sets CPN members apart from their fellow Native Americans.

"When the Chairman was giving us his rendition of the short version of the Creation Story, I began to ponder about the importance of these tales to both the Potawatomi people of today and those who have walked on this Earth before me. Not only were these stories fun ways to pass the time, these tales were indicative of how they viewed the complex world."

Reflecting on his near misses over the years, Steward was effusive of the program's impact.

"Being a PLP has opened a lot of doors. It is still strange to think that all of these things have been going on around me my entire life - the powwows, the naming ceremonies, the Festival - and yet I have never really known about it until this summer. I'm very appreciative of my time here. I have been given a unique opportunity to come and experience these things first hand. There is nothing quite like that, and for this I am thankful."

Ivory Hanson has a creation story all her own - it involves a bird - yet that didn't stop this native of Urbandale, Iowa from bonding with fellow Potawatomi from around the country. That is not an easy task when asking 10 strangers to live in a house for six weeks.

"The people I have met and interacted with in this program have made the program what it is. The people I have spent the most time with these past six weeks are the other PLP interns. We have had many ups and downs throughout our time here, but each time we seem to be able to settle issues easily and get along with each other really well. At the end of the six weeks, it will be hard to leave the people that I have gotten so close to, but it is comforting to know I have made lifelong friends in this program."

Along with project partner Natalia Anglin, Hanson set out to develop a Potawatomi workbook that helped newcomers to the Tribe's culture and history.

"Our workbook is supposed to be just a beginning introduction to CPN culture so they feel more comfortable going out and learning more on their own," wrote Hanson.

It is a project that will likely outlast the summer, as Hanson and Anglin will continue its development over the coming months with assistance from various Tribal departments.

"When I go home, I will take with me a better understanding of our culture and history, cultural lessons I have learned from different people in the Tribe, an understanding of how accomplished CPN is as a Nation with all of its different businesses and ventures, and how passionate people are about the Tribe."

Echoing the sentiments of many, West Covina, California's Natalia Anglin summarized what she'd have been doing in the summer of 2015 if not for the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

"If I didn't come to Shawnee, I would have wasted my summer sitting on my couch at home watching Netflix and avoiding the outside world," wrote Anglin.

Yet for Potawatomi wanting to know more about their cultural background, it's a good thing she left the couch. Partnering with Ivory Hanson on a cultural workbook, Anglin noted the motivation behind their project that will sound familiar to many Tribal members around the country.

"Neither Ivory nor I have ever lived in Oklahoma, so we both knew how little information about the Tribe's culture really reaches the outer districts," she wrote. "For me personally, I never really felt connected to the Tribe and was a bit intimidated by the website to try and find information, and I felt I didn't really have a place to vote on or contribute to the Tribe since I had never been to Shawnee, Oklahoma."

The two have set forth a plan that will continue the workbook's development in the coming months. Her experience in putting the project into motion also gave her an insight into the day-to-day work environment of the CPN Administration Building.

Penning by far the longest and most detailed personal reflection of the 2015 PLP class, Anglin summarized her summer experience succinctly.

"Trying to capture six weeks of cultural information, Tribal benefits, departments and enterprises, and all the amazing people we had the opportunity to meet is the hardest part of the whole experience. As cheesy as it is to say, I wouldn't, in all honesty, give up this experience for anything."

Davison took her experience as a PLP participant to find a role where she can one day contribute to the Tribe's diverse set of enterprises. Given her academic pursuits, including a Bachelor's degree in computer systems engineering and planned Master's in Computer Science and Economics, CPN might just come out ahead on the investment in this Arizona State University student.

"This program has allowed me to identify where my talents and passions can benefit the Nation, and how I can continue to contribute when the program ends. I am extremely excited at the prospect of a data center at the Iron Horse Industrial Park, the creation of a television, radio, and phone Internet platform and the progress of a virtual Tribe."

This focus also drove Davison's PLP project, which focused on streamlining the application process for firms wishing to do business on Tribal lands under the U.S. HEARTH Act.

"Our project is to develop a flexible framework that will allow for more efficient processing of HEARTH Act businesses and account for situations that may occur in the future, such as businesses competing for the same lease."

As work on Iron Horse Industrial Park continues in the coming years and more commercial entities utilize the advantages of doing business on Tribal lands through the HEARTH Act, Davison's expertise may bear fruit for the Tribe and its newest businesses.

"I will offer my assistance to my legislators, Dave Carney for my home in Puyallup, Washington and Gene Lambert while at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. I am excited to continue learning with the Nation's undertakings in mind, and to adjust my habits to live in a way that honors my Native heritage."

For much of his life, Ross Korzeniewski admitted that while he knew of his Potawatomi descent, he wasn't quite sure what that meant. A first step in defining that Potawatomi came during the 2014 Family Reunion Festival, where Korzeniewski travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma. In 2015, he took another step, applying for the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

Despite his unfamiliarity with the Tribe, the College Park, Maryland native learned that CPN's mission is reverberating across not only the Nation, but through generations.

"I remember during a talk I had with one Tribal elder, Betty Simecka, and we talked about the uniform shared vision at CPN," recalled Korzeniewski. "Everything here is done with purpose. People's entire lives are invested into our Tribe, our culture, and our interest."

Korzeniewski and project partner Paulina Davison examined more efficient process for outside firms to do business on CPN lands via the HEARTH Act. Tribal professionals and administrative personnel are still exploring the details involved in such an endeavor.

Like many who first come to the PLP, Korzeniewski was hesitant due to his perceived lack of knowledge about the CPN. Yet as many who take that most difficult first step in applying, the leadership program has impacted his outlook.

"Now, towards the end of the summer, I feel I can proudly say that I am Citizen Potawatomi and stand firm on the knowledge and wisdom I have gained," he wrote. "I am still involved in a learning process, and I hope to always be. But with the knowledge that I have gained, I want to pass it on to others. There is a contagious passion within this tribe, and I am proud to say that after this summer, I am a part of it."

Tyler Kline echoed many a PLP alum in his final reflection when describing the thought process leading up to his application to the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

"I almost did not sign up because I thought it was going to be a boring shadowing experience strictly for future politicians," wrote Kline.

Yet first takes are often unreliable, especially when viewed from El Paso, Texas.

Attendees of the Tribe's numerous outdoor enterprises, especially FireLake Golf Course, may one day have Kline and project partner Andrew Kietzman if a lack of buzzing mosquitoes is no longer an excuse for an errant golf swing. The two proposed a solution to one of the area's most vexing problems by projecting a cost-benefit analysis of an aquaculture system that would eliminate algae in ponds where larvae breed.

Kline also cited the knowledge of cultural ceremonies like the sweat lodge as a catalyst for his own reconnection with his spiritual side.

"This can be a driving point or a drive away for some, but the prayer circle, the sweat, the naming, and so many more reminded me of the goodness individuals carry and the community they can build by simply being there," he wrote.

Headed home for the summer, Kline explained that he felt confident of his place in CPN's future following what he had learned from leaders like Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. Connectivity to a grand community is what Kline took home from his experiences, something that will carry him forward as a Potawatomi leader in his own community.

"On top of the immensity of what it means to be Potawatomi, I have learned so much more about myself and built true character in my time here."



PLP participants and counselor Isaac Morris play stickball.



Ross Korzeniewski presents his final thoughts as a PLP participant.



The 2015 Potawatomi Leadership Program class.



Paulina Davison and Tyler Kline browse the shops at festival.



Paulina Davison passes the feather to Andrew Kietzman during the talking circle.

Tribal Transportation Dept. acquires funds for sidewalk on Gordon Cooper Drive

Increased commerce and development along South Gordon Cooper Drive has resulted in the Tribe improving the busy thoroughfare for automobiles in recent years. Now pedestrians who regularly walk the route will also have a safe place to tread, as Citizen Potawatomi Nation Road's Department prepares to build a sidewalk along one of Shawnee, Oklahoma's most travelled streets through the use of federal grant funds.

Progress on that mission is coming closer to fruition following CPN's recent award of Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds for \$144,500 to create the pathway along the road.

The sidewalk will run from the North Canadian River, which is the south city limits of Shawnee, to the intersection of Hardesty Road on the west side of Gordon Cooper Drive.

"We have wanted to do this for a while now," said CPN Tribal Transportation

Director Arthur Muller. "Sidewalks are covered under transportation funding, but they are a little bit harder to get funds for. On a map, the location may seem like it's in the middle of nowhere but if you are around here then you know how busy that road is with pedestrians."

Once a pitch dark corridor around the CPN headquarters, the Tribe continues to offer a community first approach to dealing with a lack of infrastructure investment by city and state agencies.

"I would guess that at least 20 or more people walk this area every day," said Muller. "This sidewalk will undoubtedly provide many a safe commute."

Because funds were not available until this year, construction is set to begin in the early fall and will continue through the end of the year.

If you would like to learn more about the CPN's Tribal Transportation Department, please call 405-878-4672.



The new sidewalk will run along South Gordon Cooper Drive to the James Allen Bridge south of Shawnee.

Language with Justin: September 2015

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

Bozho Jayek, (hello everyone)

We are pleased to announce the Potawatomi self-paced online Moodle course is live and open to the public.

We would like to invite each and every one of you to come enjoy our language. There is no cost; you only need the desire to learn the language and a respect for our way of life.

We received some great feedback from our tester group and want to say *migwetch* to those individuals.

We will continue to improve the course as we receive additional feedback.

To join the course, go to <http://language.potawatomi.org>, create an account and then enroll in 'Beginner I'. The course is designed to be done in order. The course will not allow you to jump ahead without doing the pre-



Justin Neely and the Potawatomi puppet brigade will help class participants with the language lessons.

vious lesson.

We have learned that the optimum browsers for doing the course are Safari and Google Chrome. The other browsers will work but will not allow you to hear the sound clips in the glossary or in the games.

The games are best viewed on desktop systems and some don't work on tablets and smart phones. Also the material is best viewed in the browser if it gives you the option.

Once you enroll in the course, I encourage you to be patient as we will have to confirm your account.

Once you get a confirmation notice you will be ready to login and start learning. Remember to have fun with the language. This is our language and don't be afraid to use it and even make mistakes from time to time. It's all part of learning. You are honoring your ancestors by learning to speak and using our language.

Potawatomi was a gift from Mmogosnan, the Creator. It's our job to learn and use this precious gift.

We hope this course will make the language accessible and engaging for learners.

The site will still be at <http://language.potawatomi.org>

You can e-mail us regarding any comment and inquiry at moodle@potawatomi.org

Igwien

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Wadase update: September 2015

The typical heat of an Oklahoma summer has finally arrived. While we were fortunate to enjoy a few weeks of cooler than normal temperatures for late July, the first of half August saw days with temperatures near 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above. The eagles at the aviary are enjoying the cool water misters in the enclosures on hotter days. During this heat they aren't as active and often will not eat every day. An eagle's body temperature is 106 degrees, and they can actually overheat from eating. We adjust their feeding schedule to feed early mornings or late evening to avoid the extreme temperatures.

This time last year Wadasé Zhabwé was still up north, near Ponca City, along the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. However, this year after a brief visit north, she has been just 30 miles west of the Aviary in an area a few miles south of Lake Arcadia along the North Canadian River. Since her return to that area on June 20, Wadasé has remained in a 3-square mile area that holds barely more than five miles of the North Canadian River. She has not ventured very far from the river recently and there were days when her recorded movements were less than a mile altogether. We were initially concerned about her limited movement and made several trips to the area fearing she might be injured. With no positive sightings, we reached out to local landowners for permission to gain access to other areas along the river that we could not reach. After checking our recorded search locations against her new telemetry, we know many times she was nearby but must have been just out of our sight in the cover of the trees along the river.

To compound our worry, in the last 30 days her backpack battery has been drained and has not transmitted data for spells of two and three days at a time. Fortunately, this past week's worth of telemetry has been consistent with complete data. After studying each day of data individual-



Kyla (Kchech-Gizhek – "Big Sky")

ly a pattern emerged that we realized was influenced by the weather. On extremely hot days she spent much of her time in one area, limited her activity and sometimes covered less than a mile between all of her recorded data points. Often, on those days, there is only one or two points right on the river, so perhaps she did not even hunt that day. When the temperature was even a few degrees cooler, she was much more active and recorded dozens of points up and down the river. She covered several times the distance as she had on hotter days.

To our relief, one of those points telemetry recorded her flying 2,000 feet high at speeds in excess of 30 mph. We know now that there was never a cause for too much concern. Wadasé's behavior mirrored the eagles here at the CPN on those hotter days. By not

having a cooling mister to relax in, she was not very active and sat in the coolest spot she could find.

Smart girl. There's just no need to overexert yourself in the heat.

Not having had a positive sighting in the last month, her telemetry continues to be a valuable tool, even with the gaps in data. We suspect the battery drain was a combination of two things; the feathers growing in after this year's molt likely obstructed the solar panel and her increased time on a well shaded perch.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé. To follow her movements with us you can visit www.arcgis.com/home and search for "Potawatomi eagle."

Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to Jennifer.randell@potawatomi.org.

For more information or to read previous updates please visit www.potawatomi.org and search the site for "Wadase" or visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/about-wadase>.



Frank Lucas-sponsored bill aims to allow tribes to form S Corporations

With the growing economic impact of Native American tribal governments and their commercial enterprises, two Oklahoma lawmakers are working to give these businesses the same advantage as their private counterparts.

Congressman Frank Lucas (R – OK) recently introduced H.R.2626, which amends the Internal Revenue Service's Code to allow tribal governments to be shareholders of an S Corporation. He was joined in sponsoring the measure by Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

"This legislation provides tribal governments with a new avenue to pursue economic growth and diversity," said Lucas. "Greater access to outside investment will strengthen tribal communities by creating more jobs and growing the role of small businesses."

For tribes, the advantage of being recognized as an S Corporation by the Internal Revenue Service is vital for economic development in Indian Country. The status would allow tribal governments to enter into public-private partnerships with businesses without exposing the entire tribal treasury to double taxation. Tribes' tax exempt status would be shared with these enterprises; thus promoting increased investment in many rural and underdeveloped areas of the U.S., where tribal governments are often the only investors.

Uncertainty of the legal ground in Indian Country continues to hamper potential investments by non-Native companies, specifically concerning the issue of sovereign immunity from lawsuits in state courts. In giving tribes S Corporation status, the hope is to normalize how businesses view tribal ventures.

There are concerns that designating tribes as S Corporations is another advantage given to tribes over their private sector competitors.

Andrew Witmer, Congressman Lucas' Communications Director, pushed back on that notion.

"If anything, other businesses would welcome legislation to clarify the business status of tribal governments," said Witmer. "S Corp status for tribes clarifies the pathway for legal recourse and removes some of the uncertainty that could hold back outside investments."

In early June, H.R.2626 was been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it will likely be debated and voted on.



Congressman Frank Lucas

Johnson, Grissom and Bennett leading voices in Native American purchasing organization

The National Native American Purchasing Association holds an annual conference every spring with an overall goal to educate and support tribal procurement practices, promote cooperation, communication and resource development among Native American organizations, including the Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

CPN purchasing director Stacey Bennett, who is also a member of the organization served as NNAPA Secretary last year, while two fellow CPN employees currently hold elected offices for the group. NNAPA president Ginger Johnson, secretary Kami Grissom and CPN purchasing director Bennett sat down with the *Hownikan* to answer a few questions about the association and its mission.

What is the National Native American Purchasing Association?

Johnson: "NNAPA is an organization dedicated to promote education regarding purchasing as it is related to the history and culture of Indian Tribes here in the United States."

Grissom: "We host a conference every year that is customized to fit our training needs for purchasing and contracting among other Native American organizations."

Bennett: "Seven of us from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation have now attended one or more NNAPA conferences, and three served in office. Ginger and I were elected to office upon attending our first conference, while Kami was elected during her second. It gives CPN great representation in a highly recognized association."

What is the group's mission?



Ginger Johnson, Stacey Bennett and Kami Grissom

Johnson: "We are here to help each other understand and learn about what can be a unique set of parameters regarding procurement with federally awarded grants and contracts."

Grissom: "Our mission is to participate and learn about fair, open, equal, loyal and competitive practices as it relates to the history and culture of the Indian Tribes of the United States." **How is the NNAPA funded?**

Grissom: "We are a non-profit and generate what little revenues we have from the conference fees we collect. We have been pretty self-sufficient over the years."

"The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon gave us our seed money when we first started. Along the way some of the tribal organizations of former board members have provided us with in-kind services at times with printing, office supplies, etc., now we pay them, but basically use their credit lines."

How does your work contribute to the association?

Johnson: "My position is to help guide the organization throughout the year in the process of planning our annual conference. I bring a different perspective to the conference. Being an accounts payable professional for 15 years, I am able to explain and relate a variety of topics during the conferences."

Bennett: "Attending the NNAPA conference gave me the chance to network with other procurement officials in Indian Country. I also come to the realization that over half of tribes in the United States are a lot smaller than CPN and had a tremendous amount of questions for us on our daily functions and operations."

Grissom: "This position contributes to the NNAPA board simply by keeping up with what's going on. My personal addition to the organization this year was by adding social media and just more fun. I thought the

best way to do that is social media outreach and by making the experience more enjoyable so people have a good time. I have set up our Facebook account and plan on being able to reach more tribes who don't know that we exist so that they can participate in our conference training next year.

"Why is this organization important for tribes?"

Grissom: "The NNAPA organization is important to tribes across the nation because it teaches and guides our procurement and purchasing departments how to follow the rules and regulations of their individual jobs within the tribal government."

"It is very easy for purchasing to be overlooked when there are so many things going on within a tribe. Each year the topics that are most affecting the tribes at the time are the ones that are the main focus of training. The NNAPA teaches and prepares us for these things and keeps everyone aware of the changes to come."

Bennett: "The networking we do as tribal purchasing professionals is vital, especially with the largest challenge for our sector in the coming years being the implementation and compliance with the new OMB regulations. At CPN we've been working diligently to be in compliance, but we share those experiences with other purchasing professionals and learn from each other."

The 2016 conference is in the planning stage right now. It will be held in April of 2016 at Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio, Colorado. To find out more information about next year's conference visit the National Native American Purchasing Association Facebook page



Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

Bozho Nikan
(Hello my friend),

We attended the Gathering of the Nations celebration recently in Carter, Wisconsin, which was hosted by the Forest County Band of Potawatomi. I want to extend my most sincere thanks to Chairman Gus Franks and all of his government and staff who worked so very hard to make us feel welcome and create a wonderful experience. Their new outdoor dance facility is magnificent and the improvements to the dance grounds are superb.

Their dance pavilion is round. It is 180 feet in diameter and the height at the peak appears to be at least 8-stories high. It is built entirely of wood, except for the huge steel center pole

and the steel leg framework around the perimeter. The very steep and long roof surface is built on a giant circle of triple thickness conventional wood trusses with the bottom chord, or board that would normally be the ceiling in a house, turned to the outside, and the peak of the truss that would normally be the ridge of a house roof, turned inside. The effect is a cathedral looking interior ceiling that is very impressive.

The roof is shingled with a set of dormer vents at about 30 feet up from the roof edge. It is surrounded by a porch structure that slopes up to meet the steep roof. It has a concrete floor for chairs. It is just a beautiful piece of design and craftsmanship. The floor is a special removable rubber tile, each about 3' square, that interlocks so they can remove it to clean it or to host an event that needs a dirt floor. The rest of the grounds, camping area, community buildings, elder buildings and service area are first class. It is certainly a compliment to the nice hotel and casino they operate in



The Forest County Potawatomi dance arena.

Carter.

Next year we will host the Gathering of the Nations, which will be our first time in more than six years. The last time we hosted, five people from up north had to go to the hospital with heat exhaustion. So we anticipate that the bulk of the activities will be inside of FireLake Arena. What is most important is the participation by all of you in hosting the event. These folks are all our relatives. I hope we can

treat them like family and make them feel at home. If you want to be involved in the planning or activities, contact the Tribal Office at 405-275-3121 and they will take your contact information. This will really be a lot of fun as well as a very large celebration of Potawatomi culture.

We are embarking on a new and exciting higher education effort with St. Gregory's University that holds a lot of promise for our Tribe's

future. We will soon have a degree-based internship for students who want to work at the Nation and earn college credit while they learn on the job. Look for more information in the future.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch,

John Rocky Barrett,
Keweoge
(He leads them home)
Tribal Chairman



Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

It is great to be acquainted with so many wonderful Potawatomi Tribal members from practically every state in the U.S. All of you are special; each with your own God-given talents.

I am going to introduce one of these exceptional Tribal members to those of you who do not know him. He

lives in Santa Cruz, California and recently won a marathon. That may not sound so "out of the ordinary" to most people, but this gentleman just happens to be 85 years of age. Now that is talent!

His talent does not begin or end with a marathon. He is an artist and a writer of children's books. If that is not enough, this gentleman served with two separate branches of service; the Army and the Navy. I am very proud to say that Jack Wooldridge and his lovely wife Barbara are friends of mine.

I realize that many of you, too, know and love Jack. He has been a staunch support-

er of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation throughout the years. He has contributed to the Nation in many ways with his zest to capture the Potawatomi history within his books and art work.

Congratulations to you, Jack Wooldridge! May you continue to run for many years to come, and may you diligently carry on with your writing and art work as you have in the past. You have been a blessing to many.

School has started back up in our community. It is great to see so many young people scurrying around as they make their way to school. I heard a refreshing remark from one of our communi-



Jack Wooldridge

ty's best yesterday as I was sitting in a local barber shop. Someone ask a young man in his early teens if he dreaded going back to school.

"Oh, no!" the young man exclaimed. "I like school very much. I really like everything about going back to school. You get to see your friends and your favorite teachers, and you get to begin all kinds of activities again."

Being a former educator, that was music to my ears! My wish is that everyone can be as enthusiastic today about whatever they are doing... just like this young man.

Migwetch,

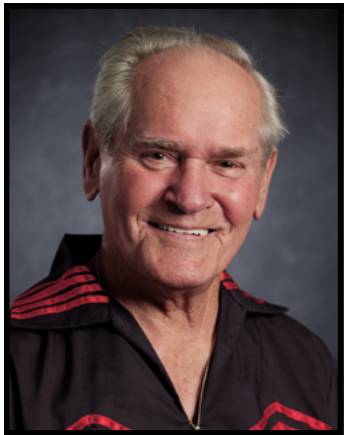
Linda Capps
Vice Chairman
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Jack's paintings titled "Potawatomi Woman", "Kiwani" and "Knight Rider".

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.



Bozho Nikan, (Hello friend)

I have just returned from Chicago where my wife, Julia, and I helped one of my District 1 members, Anna Comadol, celebrate a signif-

District 1 - Roy Slavin

icant milestone in her life. August 5, 2015 was Anna's 100th birthday. I have communicated occasionally with Anna ever since I became a district legislator. This was our first in person meeting and I must say I was amazed at her sharp wit and humor. Anna now lives in a nursing home and they provided a large room for the birthday party where she was surrounded by friends and family. One friend in particular I have to mention is Jennifer Creviston. Jennifer has been Anna's close friend for half

her life, Jennifer's life that is. That's 17 years. Jennifer was instrumental in helping make our visit a surprise.

Anna received birthday greetings from Governor Bruce Rauner of Illinois and President Barack Obama. Not to be outdone, she also received birthday cards from all the CPN Legislators and a blanket from the Nation. I believe she was most proud of these cards and the blanket than anything else.

Chicago is one of my favorite cities to visit, as I was growing up I had an Aunt who lived and taught school there. She was very proud of her city and took every opportunity to show it off. Though she is no longer with us, we did have a nice visit with her son John and his wife Joey. This trip also gave me an opportunity to visit the Trickster Art Gallery again, it holding the distinction as the only Native American art gallery in the state of Illinois.



Jennifer Creviston and Anna Comadol



Roy presents Anna with a Pendleton Blanket from the Nation.

If you have an elder in your family who is about to celebrate a birthday for the years 90 or above, please let me know the details so we can recognize their birthday and perhaps help them celebrate.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not get email or U.S. Postal Service mail from me occasionally, it is because I do not have your information. I promise it will not be

sold or used to try to sell you something.

Mail to:
Roy Slavin
CPN District 1
6730 Tower Drive
Kansas City MO 64151
or call toll free
1-888-741-5767

Igwien (Heartfelt Thanks)
Netatgtege (Roy)



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

I'm writing this column while on our family vacation in Memphis. Today we visited the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel. This is the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lorraine Motel/Civil

Rights Museum: After the motel fell into disrepair, Memphis residents purchased it and the boarding house from which James Earl Ray fired his fatal shot as King stood on the balcony of his motel room. The motel has become a focal point of the museum. The visit followed on my other visits this year to Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, which was integrated "with all deliberate speed" in 1957, three years after *Brown v Board of Education*; and to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington D.C., the latter with fellow Citizen Potawatomi Peggy Kinder and Theresa Adame while they were in town for our February trip to the Archives of the National Museum of the American Indian in Maryland.

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

All these experiences chronicling key episodes in the American Civil Rights Movement were moving and inspiring. I left the museum, in particular, more fully committed to participating in civil and human rights efforts. I urge you to check out the online materials posted on <http://civilrightsmuseum.org> for a sense of the museum and I hope many of you have the opportunity to visit in person. One reflection that a Potawatomi elder shared with me this past year kept coming to mind as we toured the museum. It was his feeling, as a child and young man, that our country, so focused on whites and "coloreds," had *no* place for him, as an Indian, since Indians didn't even rate their own segregated spaces or signs reflecting their exclusion. This sense of not belonging in a land in which we always have been is important to recall so that we do not lose the lessons learned from it.

Amending our marriage ordinance: With that introduction I want to share my respect for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in support of the ability of persons of the same sex to marry. I know this may not be a universally popular view among District 2 citizens and others throughout the rest of our Nation.

However, I did not run for the Legislature with an eye to taking the popular positions and am compelled to continue to press forward

with getting our marriage ordinance revised to state that marriage is between two people. Personally I consider the ability to marry to be a civil right that we must accord our Citizen Potawatomi, consistent with the rule of law under our Constitution and in recognition of the human rights of all of our citizens. To paraphrase the late civil rights leader Julian Bond, "Sexual disposition parallels race. I was born Indian and had no choice. I could not and will not change it if I could. Like race, our sexuality isn't preference. It is immutable, unchangeable, and the Constitution protects us all from prejudices and discrimination based on immutable differences." As Indian people, I want us to stand together with those who are oppressed in this country. I will keep you informed of developments as they happen. I am hopeful that the Chairman will return the proposed bill to our next Legislative meeting agenda.

Visiting opportunities: Details on the upcoming District 2 tour of the NMAI Archives in Suitland, Maryland are as follows.

We will gather at Sweet Dee's, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland MD, at 12:30 p.m. on Fri., October 9, 2015 for a southern lunch, then tour the archives and view Potawatomi beadwork, weavings with water panther and other traditional images, household goods, and more, as well as other Native hold-



The balcony of Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, site of Dr. King's assassination.

ings. Please let me know if you are able to attend and want to claim one or more of the 12 total slots; about five are claimed as I write this. Also, planning ahead, our District 2 Fall Feast will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the District 2 office. The address is in my signature block at the bottom of this column. I hope you can join in this annual event with crafting and story swapping and potluck dining. I'll bring the entrees and drinks. When planning meetings around our district I know that many of you will not have the opportunity to travel to them. If you have questions, comments or ideas to share, please do so through email, phone or letter. Building our CPN community in

District 2 continues to be my top priority. I periodically update my website with photos, news and other items of interest so please visit it from time to time. Please also consider joining our District 2 Facebook page, if you are a user of Facebook, contact me for details on joining.

Kind regards and *bama pi* (until later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
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evamariecarney.com



District 3 - Bob Whistler

Bozho Nikanek
(Hello friends),

With the introduction of the Android phone, i-Pods, and i-Pads, I increasingly see families out in restaurants and business meeting attendees more consumed with their device than those they are with. In our culture, we place very heavy emphasis upon respect for all, whether it be another person, situation, or nature and the environment. When you make the choice to be focused on your smartphone or other device, have you thought what it shows about you?

A survey recently in the industry I work in found that the corporate executives of most firms really frown upon this distraction and

find it very annoying. You are showing them a lack of attention, respect, self and social awareness, and failing to listen to what they have to say. When in meetings, you should never answer your phone unless it is because you are expecting an emergency call.

Do you have someone on life support or is your house on fire?

Actually in both of these instances, there isn't anything you can do immediately since you are not physically at that site where you could become involved. So waiting until the meeting is over or finishing that dinner and good family conversation will be soon enough to get on your Android device.

What I'm saying is that if you are in a meeting or out with family, your mind and thoughts should be involved with them not elsewhere, out of respect for all, including yourself. We just had a family get together and our granddaughter left her cell phone at home, allowing us

to have many good conversations with everyone talking and participating.

The plans in the next couple of months as announced in last month's article is to hold two area meetings in District 3, one in October and the other in November.

In many of the meetings of the past we have covered the "Trail of Death" where our ancestors were forced to make in the late 1830s. In Texas, the same held true for the other Indian Nations that lived here like the Lipan Apache, Caddo, Comanche, Kichi, Tawakomi, Tonkawa and Wichita.

Several weeks ago, I made a trip to about the most southwest area of Texas to look at what some of the land is now being used for other than for cities and businesses. In the drive between Corpus Christie and South Padre Island, I realized that I was in the area previously occupied by the Lipan Apache. There were many fields of crops that are vital to our current day needs. Two of the crops I saw, are pictured in this article.

One of the crops gets to be about three feet high and has a very granular top that is green during growth and when ripe and ready for harvest is a reddish brown. The other crop is close to the ground and also green, but when ripe it has white clusters. These two crops are alternated with corn and sugarcane in other years in southwestern Texas. Both crops



Guess this plant and win a prize!

are vital to our use and major sources of revenue for those farmers. One is for food, and the other for a variety of other uses.

I will be giving a gift to the first person in District 3 who can give me the names of both of these two crops. As hints to these two items, neither of which is native to North America.

One originated in India and possibly Pakistan dating back 3-4,000 years ago. The other originated in South America. I am looking forward to seeing how many of you are able to provide the answers.

At the time of writing this,

in a few days I will leave for Wisconsin to attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. Any news from there will be included in next month's article. I'm honored and proud to serve as your representative. I thank you for this honor.

Bama pi,

Bob Whistler/*Bmashi*
(He soars)
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Another non-Native Texas plant specimen for you to name.



District 4 - Jon Boursaw

Why RSVP?: Have you ever held a function where you extended invitations for lunch and asked recipients to reply? 90 responded and 120 showed up. Suddenly there may not be enough food for everyone. That is what we experienced at last year's district meeting in Rossville. Ordering extra isn't the answer as we run the risk of paying for large quantities of leftover food, seconds are nice but they still cost money.

District 4 meeting in Wichita, October 31, 2015: I will host a district meeting at the Mid-America Indian Center in Wichita on Sat., Oct 31, 2015 at 10 a.m. In addition to the normal Tribal updates and discussion of benefits we will have a presentation by the CPN Eagle Aviary staff from Shawnee, Oklahoma. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps has also indicated that she may attend this meeting. You should be receiving your

invitation in the mail very soon. To RSVP call me at 785-861-7272, e-mail me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org.

CPN District 4 Veterans Open House: I plan to host a Veterans Open House at the Topeka District Office on November 11, 2015. I will have further details in the October edition of the *Hownikan*.

Proud to have been part of it: Last fall I was invited by Haskell University Professor and Tribal member Eric Anderson to participate in an event in Ottawa, Kansas hosted by the Franklin County Historical Society and the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. The event was titled "Native Neighbors from Freedom's Frontier Past."

CPN was asked to participate as part of the current Franklin County contains a portion

of the Sugar Creek Reservation, the final destination of the Potawatomi Trail of Death. My contribution included having my Tribal history panels on display and giving my CPN History Presentation. Now for the best part.

This event has been selected by the American Association for State and Local History to receive the 2015 Award of Merit, which will be presented in Louisville, Kentucky on September 18, 2015.

More requests for Tribal History Presentation: I continue to receive requests to give the presentation on the CPN History. One of the most recent was from the "Adventures in Learning" offered by the Shepherd's Center of Topeka. This is a seniors' program promoted by 26 churches in the Topeka area. My presentation on August 7 had more than 100 in attendance. It is very re-

warding for me to continue to tell *our* story to so many different groups and organizations, young and old.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

Migwetch,
Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*
CPN District 4 Legislative Representative
(O) 785-861-7272
(C) 785-608-1982
2007 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka, KS 66604
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 3-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call

District 4 meeting in Rossville, September 19, 2015: I will host a district meeting in the CPN Community Center on Sat., Sept 19, 2015 at 10 a.m. In addition to the normal Tribal updates and discussion of benefits I've invited three individuals to give presentations that you should find interesting. If you haven't already RSVP'd please do so as soon as possible so we can have an idea of how many will be attending. To RSVP call me at 785-861-7272, e-mail me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org or call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401.



District 5 - Gene Lambert

Bozho,
Did you know that there is a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? According to Wikipedia, “the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its 61st ses-

sion at UN Headquarters in New York City on 13 September 2007.”
Article 31 in particular emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to their cultural heritage, including ceremonial knowledge, as protected intellectual property.
I thought this had been established years and years prior to this article from Wikipedia, which as we all know can be questionable in its statements from time to time. However we must prove day after day, year after year, our sovereign rights and ability to practice as our ancestors

did. We have the right to carry forward the gratitude of life itself or the gifts of Mother Earth as provided by the Creator.
I can remember when I would hear people comment on what a beautiful day it was. The thoughts, when I was very young of course, were “are they crazy? It’s a day for Pete’s sake.”
I always assumed there would be many more on the way and that I would live forever with no concept of reality on the span of life or the gifts it brings.
Now I find myself saying

“Isn’t this a beautiful day?! How blessed I am to have the family, friends, a nice home to live in, a car that runs and thank God each day for his guidance and protection.”
We take so much for granted that the bad things happen to other people. We are blessed by the grace of God that we can walk, talk, breath, eat, see or hear. Everything that is provided in each moment is a gift.
Our ancestors knew instinctively their gifts and began every day in gratitude. They never knew if there would be another.

So without pounding too harshly I would ask that you take an inventory of what you have in your world, since we all create our own reality. Seriously, take an inventory some morning before you start your day outside and see how much you truly have.
I am also excited to announce my next district meeting in Denver, Colorado set to take place at the Denver Renaissance on Sept. 19, 2015. The exact location is 3801 Quebec Street, Denver CO 80207.
Please join us!



District 6 - Rande K. Payne

Ahau Jayek!
Well, it seems like forever since my last column. I just wasn’t able to sit in front of my computer long enough to pen a column for last month’s *Hownikan* offering. For that I offer my apologies.
First off I would like to congratulate District 13 Representative Bobbie Bowden on her re-election. I have no doubt Bobbie will continue to serve well in our Legislature. I would also like to recognize Sam Navarre for

his fine display of courage, humility and professionalism in the way he campaigned and the way he accepted the voice of the voters. Great job by Bobbie and Sam! And congratulations to District 11 Representative Lisa Craft and District 10 Representative David Barrett on their new four year terms!
Ironically, Oklahoma and California seemed to have exchanged weather patterns for Festival. It was nice to be in Oklahoma during a mild and dry period while California was experiencing thunder storms, high humidity and blazing temperatures.
Festival was well attended by District 6 members this year. It was very enjoyable to visit with so many of you. Progress continues with repairs at the Cultural Heritage Center. The new flooring looks

great! I was honored to be invited to the Potawatomi Veterans meeting where Representative Jon Boursaw gave a presentation on Potawatomi history in Kansas.
There are just too many memorable moments at Festival to mention them all. As always, I’m in awe of everything about Festival. While the grounds and our list of enterprises are impressive to say the least, I think I’m most enamored with our people. Any time I’m around our people I feel such a strong connection to the past, present and future. It’s a rare combination of connections that one would rarely find anywhere else.
Sunday at Festival always means I’m just one day away from having to leave. But it also means Potawatomi Church Service. I find this

to be a great way to wrap up Festival weekend. I always leave the service with overwhelming warmth in my heart. I think I may have mentioned that my great-grandparents were married and worshiped in that church so that makes it an even more special place to me. I was asked by Vice-Chairman Linda Capps to offer the opening prayer to which I enthusiastically answered yes! I consider it an honor and a privilege to be part of the service in that way. This year’s speakers shared amazing messages of generosity and hope and to sing the old hymn “How Great Thou Art” in Potawatomi combined for a truly unforgettable experience. District 10 Representative David Barrett wrapped up the service by leading us in the closing prayer.
Igwien (heartfelt thank you)

to everyone who helped make Family Reunion Festival so enjoyable and so memorable! I can’t wait for Festival 2016!
All for now...*bama mine!*
“The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” Zephaniah 3: 17
Migwetch!
Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Legislator District 6
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rande.payne@potawatomi.org



District 7 - Mark Johnson

Bozho nikanek
Hello Friends,
Before I get started, I wanted to congratulate a recent Potawatomi graduate, Kristina Duncan who graduated from the University of California, Berkley with a BS in Earth Science and Major in Geography. It is wonderful to see our young people excel

in life and head out to make this world a better place.
As Chairman Barrett stated in his article last month, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Shawnee continue to force our Nation to spend money that could be better spent on our members, to defend against the unwarranted attack on our Tribe by trying to force the Nation to collect taxes for them. The CPN’s case was bolstered in late July by a letter from Deputy Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn outlining the U.S. Government’s position that Native American nations are exempt from state and local taxes, due to the principal of federal pre-

emption.
In the law of the United States, federal preemption is the invalidation of a U.S. state law that conflicts with federal law. According to the Supremacy Clause (Article VI, clause 2) of the United States Constitution, “*This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land*”.
While states and cities may be able to tax the citizens of the state or city, they cannot tax the federal government,

and by extension, Native nations. The deed to every piece of trust land where the CPN conducts its business reads the same, “The United States Government in Trust for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.”
These lands do not pay property tax to the state because of preemption, and the government’s position is that Native nations should enjoy the same benefits as any other government. One can only hope that the state and city will wake up and quit wasting the taxpayer’s money, and our Nation can direct our funds to our people where they belong.

Once again I would like to say what an honor and privilege it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to.
Migwetch / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA. 93611
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Mark.Johnson@Potawatomi.org

LEGISLATORS ARE NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FROM TRIBAL ROLLS. Please contact your legislator so that you can receive important information.

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.



Bozho, Nikanek

You may have noticed the *Hownikan* arriving in your mailbox and electronically from me if I have your email, on a much more regular and timely basis. I received my August copy the first week of August – I would venture to say that has never happened before in the history of this publication! The upside is a more connected and educated membership. The downside is deadlines!

District 8 - Dave Carney

I am writing this column prior to flying to Alaska for a CPN area gathering and preparations are in full swing. Some of the challenges of setting up an event in Alaska while being located in Washington are renting venues you have not seen, caterers who won't call you back and technical challenges with audio/visual equipment and simply getting everything there.

However, when the meeting happens, it will be fun and filled with good people - and hopefully food. There will be much to write about in next month's column, including drumming, which is being coordinated by Carry and Tina Parker Shorthill. They have been members of a local drum group made up of Indians that have moved to Alaska from all over the United States.

As you know, Alaska is far



Denny Haskew's "Courage to Lead".

from Oklahoma both geographically and culturally. Bringing Potawatomi culture has been something that not only I have been working on, but also other members like Rozann Kimpton of Wasilla, Alaska. Rozann hosted the last area gathering about three years ago which was a barbecue and a Naming Ceremony

on her fabulous property with a creek running through it. In fact, she is so connected to her land that her Indian name is *Zibewes* (creek).

Rozann has a smaller version of the bronze statue of "Courage to Lead" by Denny Haskew that is being installed on her land.

A friend from Palmer, Alaska bought this piece from Sorrel Sky Gallery in Durango, Colorado and was having dinner with mutual friends when her name came up and the fact that she is a proud Potawatomi. She was contacted by the owner and after a visit, decided to have it delivered to Rozann's piece of paradise. Rozann will be inviting interested members to come see the artwork the day after our gathering. If you are traveling through Alaska at a future date and would like to see Rozann's "park" as she calls it, and the Potawatomi statue "Courage to Lead" feel free to contact me and I will coordinate with her.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

Dave Carney
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www.dave-carney.com
 360.259.4027



The 2015 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations will have come and gone by the time this paper is printed. What will remain from this unique community event is the exuberance of Potawatomi people - the desire to build family ties across Potawatomi nations and bands, to learn customs and stories, to learn our Potawatomi language, to support tribal decisions that contribute to nation-building, and to put all of these Potawatomi cultural practices into motion.

I am honored to be selected by the editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, a peer-reviewed quarterly publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to write the book review of *Gathering the Potawatomi Nation: Revitalization and Identity* by Christopher Wetzel.

Mr. Wetzel spent the last 15 years speaking with Potawatomi elders and "na-

District 11 - Lisa Kraft

tional cultural brokers" at various tribal venues and the Gatherings and documenting his ideas on the resurgence of Potawatomi people reconstituting a larger Potawatomi nation. He has valuable insight as both an observer and participant in Potawatomi culture; participant in the sense that he listens to stories, conducts interviews, documents our culture and practices and experiences the education and examples of our ways. Moreover, while his conclusions for revitalization differ, in some regards, from mine, he writes a very descriptive argument for the modern and unique American Indian movement bringing Potawatomi members, from nine different tribal governments, together to reanimate the larger Potawatomi Nation prior to a time of treaties, land loss and federal removals.

Copies of the *Gathering the Potawatomi Nation* (2015) can be purchased at bookstores and online retailers, like Amazon. If you are a subscriber to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, please be on the lookout for my book review.

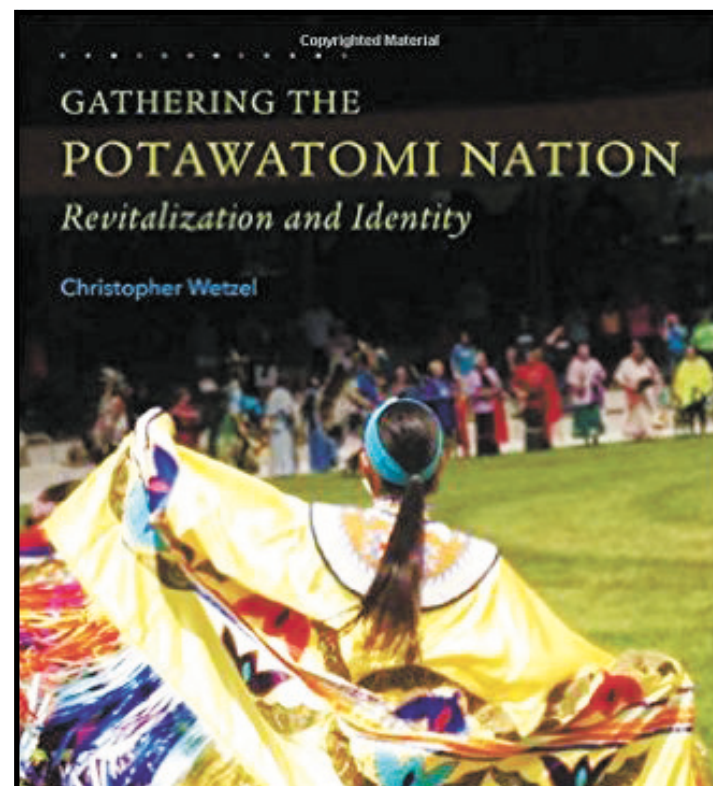
I formed my concept of Potawatomi nation building in 1997 after working with Rhonda Butcher and Chairman Barrett to research and negotiate our Nation into Self-Gov-

ernance. Nation building was subsequently the subject of my master's thesis from the University of Central Oklahoma in "If You Build It, They Will Come: Using Museum Design and Exhibition to Promote American Indian Nationalism."

I defended it in May of 2004. My research was made possible by a Tribal-wide survey I helped create with Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps at a pivotal time in our tribal history - the groundwork leading to our Constitutional change in redistricting and outing the Secretary of the Interior from our legislative decision-making.

From my love of Potawatomi politics and history, I also researched and wrote an in-depth chronology of Citizen Potawatomi allotments and citizenship - from Kansas to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) from the 1860s through the 1890s as a master's project in 2003-2004.

If you are interested in the formation of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation reservation, please refer to my published article in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* referenced as Kraft, Lisa. 2008. "Thrice Purchased: Acquisition and Allotment of the Citizen Potawatomi Reservation," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 89 (Spring): 64-87.



I whole-heartedly believe that our Tribe learns and grows from the instruction of elders, storytellers, language exchangers, Tribal leaders, parents, youth and children. Our culture is perpetuated across multiple generations, male and female, alike, young and old.

"Education," the desire to learn, apply and teach, and "example," the willingness to share cultural information and a person's acceptance of what they are

being taught and eventually practice, are both critical to the success of our unique Citizen Potawatomi Nation and, ultimately, our place within the greater Potawatomi Nation.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft (Zibikwe)
 District 11 - Oklahoma
Lisa@CopperBearConsulting.com



Bozho!

Thank you all once again for your votes and confidence in allowing me the privilege of serving as your District 13 Legisla-

District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

tor for another term. I would also like to thank my opponent Sam Navarre for a well ran campaign. Speaking as a Tribal member I would like to express my gratitude for a few of the benefits offered by the Tribe to our members. My son has gone through some extensive dental care and I cannot thank the doctors and the staff enough for the excellent care and concern they have given him! I know they are doing their best to get our members in to see a dentist as soon as possible. If you have any concerns about the level of care you will be given I can prom-

ise you it is top notch! You can reach the CPN Dental Clinic at 405-273-6337.

I am also very appreciative of the prescription program and the care given to my dad, a Tribal elder. The prescriptions that the Tribe provides saves him well over \$200 per month. These services are also offered by mail order for those who do not live in the area. The mail order pharmacy can be reached at 866-900-5236.

It is also time for those of you who are attending college or any type of vocational school to

apply for scholarships. This is another life changing program offered by our Tribe. Keep in mind you do have to apply each semester. Scholarships are handled through our Tribal Rolls Office and the information and applications can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/CPNRolls>.

I bring up these few benefits as reminders that as our population grows it becomes harder to finance these programs. Sometimes the administration and leadership of the Tribe has to make the difficult decisions to make changes and cuts to some

benefits, such as the changes in the eye glasses and contact lenses through our Health Aid Program. These decisions are not easy and are not taken lightly, but I believe the clinic administration and the leaders of the Tribe have the best interest of our members at heart. We want to do all we can to continue to provide this incredible benefit to us and future generations.

Thank you for the honor of serving you, the members of our great Nation.

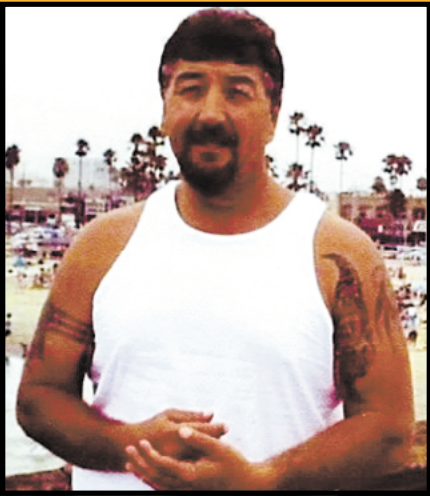
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BBowden@potawatomi.org

Marjorie Joy Rush



Marjorie Joy, age 91, went to be with her Heavenly Father on her birthday, July 29, 2015. She was born July 29, 1924, in McLoud, OK to Walter and Pansy Emert. She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband of 68 years, Russell; their son, Randall Rush; and two brothers, Cliff and Elvin. Marjorie is survived by son, Keith and wife Charlene; brother, Bill Emert; sister, Betty Spurlock; and a multitude of grand- and great-grandchildren, who loved her dearly.

Curtis John Klistoff



Curtis John Klistoff passed peacefully on the morning of May 29th, 2015 in his home at the age of 55.

Curtis was born March 7th, 1960 in Maywood, California to Tiny and John Klistoff. He grew up in the city of La Mirada with his sister's Dee Dee, Vicki and his brother Nick.

As a young boy he played baseball and football and excelled at both sports. He made many friends as a young kid, many of whom continued their friendships into adulthood.

He met Penny Adam in 1977. They later married in 1989 and moved to Whittier where they raised their children Heather, Vickie, Briana & David.

He enjoyed all his different jobs behind the wheel to provide for his family. His jobs didn't always have conventional hours, but he always put his family first.

Curtis has a love for the outdoors especially the river. Spending time out on the water with friends and family is what he loved most and brought the biggest smile to his face. Making time to go as often as possible he earned the name River Rat. When he wasn't at the river Curtis would spend his *time* golfing with friends, being Mr. "Fix It" around the neighborhood, and tending to his lawn. He made the best out of life regardless of what was going on. Always joking or making a sharp witted comment to bring a smile to your face. If you needed someone to be there for you, he was the man to call. His tall rough exterior was only a facade; inside he was gentle, kind and loving.

Curtis is survived by his four children; Briana, David, Heather and her husband Danny, Vickie and her husband Ben; His grandchildren James and Lily; His mother Tiny; sister's Dee Dee and Vicki; All of his nieces and nephews & great nieces and great nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather Alex Bruno, his brother Nick Klistoff and his father John Klistoff. His heart will forever be with the warm water of the Colorado River and the cool flow of an ice cold beer.

He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

Shirley A. Schwartz-Cyrier



Shirley A. Schwartz-Cyrier, 74, passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at Riverside Medical Center.

Shirley was born on November

19, 1940 to Emmett Leroy (Roy) and Rose Mary (Forst) Brice in Chicago, Illinois. Shirley retired from Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad in 2003 after 33 years of service.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years Joseph Schwartz II, husband of one year Don Cyrier; daughter, Sandra (Danny) Nevillis and son, Joseph Schwartz III.

Shirley is survived by husband, Marion (Bud) Jones; two sons, Mark (Vannesa) Schwartz and Karl (Dawn) Schwartz; grandchildren, Joshua (Ashley) Summers, Jennifer Summers, Roxanne Schwartz and Mark Schwartz II; along with 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Robert (Lorraine) Brice; sister, Theresa; and many nieces and nephews.

Billie Jean Qualls



Billie Jean (LaClaire) Qualls, 83, of McKinney, Texas, was called Home to the Lord on Thursday, July 23, 2015, surrounded by her family. She will be deeply missed by all who loved her, and were loved by her.

Born September 24, 1931 in Ada, Oklahoma to Henry and Bert (Ayes) LaClaire, she grew up in Shawnee, and considered it her home town. Billie was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. She married Bob Qualls on August 30, 1952, after turning down

his initial marriage proposal on their first date, four years earlier.

She had a passion for researching her family's genealogy, and traveling with her family over much of the United States. Billie loved working in her vegetable and flower gardens, and enjoyed collecting vintage treasures and shopping at garage sales. Her most joyous accomplishments were raising her children, and being a loving Memaw to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she adored and served all her life.

Billie is now reunited with her parents; sister, Bobbie June LaClaire of Shawnee; and brother, Jimmy Charles LaClaire of Wasilla, Alaska, who walked on before her.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Bob Qualls; their three children: Karen Whittington, Deborah Bradshaw, and Michael Qualls, all of McKinney; nine grandchildren: Christina (Baggarly) Forté of McKinney; Misty (Qualls) Livermore of McKinney; Kelly (Blue) Kinkel of McKinney; Jonathan Baggarly of Green Valley, Arizona; Kim (Blue) Ovens of Frisco; Kara Bradshaw of McKinney; Gary Bradshaw of Provo, Utah; Allison Baggarly of McKinney; and Jason Sparks of Kerrville; 16 great-grandchildren ranging in age from 21 years to one year; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service was held August 8 in McKinney, and graveside services were held August 10 at Fairview Cemetery in Shawnee.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document and a 300dpi photo to hownikan@potawatomi.org.

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email CClark@Potawatomi.org.